



RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM KING—Shown here at his desk at the Joliet Arsenal, Col. Joel G. Holmes, field director of ammunition plants for the United States, has been honored by the British government. On the recommendation of King George VI of England, Holmes has been awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, degree of Honorary Officer..

British Honor Field Director

Officer Cited for Work On Ordnance Staff

Col. Joel G. Holmes, field director of ammunition plants for the United States, who has his headquarters at the Joliet Arsenal, has been honored by the British government, it was reported by the war department yesterday.

The King of England has conferred upon Col. Holmes the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, degree of honorary Officer. The award and insignia accompanying it will be forwarded to Col. Holmes as soon as it is received from the British authorities, according to Adj. Gen. Owen Elliott, of Washington, D. C.

COL. HOLMES, who has been in charge of all the ammunition plants in this country since September, 1946, served as a deputy chief of ordnance in the European theater of operations during World War II.

Accompanying word that he will receive the award, and now is authorized to wear the ribbon representing this award was the following citation from King George VI:

"As a member of the staff of the chief of ordnance, ETO, of the United States, Col. Holmes worked in the closest co-operation with my officers in this country in the supply of ordnance material of U. S. origin and in the taking over of the depots in the United Kingdom, which were handed over to the U. S. army on its arrival in this country.

"HIS HELPFUL attitude is largely responsible for the successful interworking of our joint organizations, particularly in the supply of stores at the shortest notice to meet our urgent requirements."

A veteran of 29 years army service, Col. Holmes is a native of Forked River, N. J., born Aug. 24, 1892. During World War I, Col. Holmes served for 10 months in France as adjutant in an anti-aircraft battalion. During World War II he went to England in May 1943, and subsequently served thruout the ETO for 28 months.

In addition to his new citation, Col. Holmes wears the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's medal for gallantry, the Bronze Star medal for bravery and the army commendation ribbon. He also wears two bronze battle stars for the Normandy and Northern France campaigns.